

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0950
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNGA, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: OBSERVATIONS ON EIGHTH
SPECIAL SESSION ON UNIFIL FINANCING
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1. SUMMARY: ACCOMPANYING THE SIGH OF RELIEF WHICH
CAME WITH THE SOLID VOTE FOR FINANCING UNIFIL WAS
A WIDESPREAD FEELING OF SATISFACTION, TEMPERED, HOWEVER,
BY THE NAGGING REALIZATION THAT THIS WAS ONLY ONE
ESSENTIAL STEP AND MAJOR FINANCIAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS
ARE STILL WITH US. THE LEBANESE WERE PLEASED WITH THE

RESULT; THE ISRAELIS THOUGHT THE OUTCOME WAS FINE, FEELING SUFFICIENTLY RELAXED TO DEPART EN MASSE BEFORE THE VOTE TO BEGIN PASSOVER; AND THE SOVIET BLOC WAS ISOLATED IN ITS OPPOSITION WITH VIETNAM, LAOS AND SYRIA PROVIDING ONLY A LEAN TOTAL OF 14 "NO" VOTES. AN IMPORTANT EXCEPTION IN SOVIET BLOC VOTING WAS ROMANIA WHICH SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION WHILE CALLING FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE FINAL HOURS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON FINANCING UNIFIL, LEBANESE PERM REP TUENI WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO LET US KNOW OUR EFFORTS BEHIND THE SCENES WERE APPRECIATED. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, TUENI WORKED CLOSELY WITH US, SHARING HIS PROBLEMS, HIS STRATEGIES, AND HIS SATISFACTION. HIS DEALINGS WITH THE ARAB GROUP BROUGHT THE DESIRED RESULT, ALTHOUGH HIS RELUCTANCE INITIALLY TO TAKE A MORE CATEGORIC STAND AGAINST POLITICIZING THE SPECIAL SESSION COULD BE CRITICIZED AS WEAKNESS. EGYPT, KUWAIT AND THE MODERATES PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN AVOIDING THE INTERJECTION OF STRONGER LANGUAGE EITHER IN THE FORM OF SEPARATE RESOLUTIONS OR ADDITIONAL POLITICAL PROVISIONS IN THE TECHNICAL FINANCING RESOLUTION. TUENI WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL ALLOWED THE RADICALS AND THE MODERATES WITHIN THE ARAB AND NON-ALIGNED GROUPS TO PLAY OUT THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FINESSE OF TRADITIONAL LEBANESE POLITICS SEEMS TO HAVE AVOIDED OVERLY ANTAGONIZING EITHER. HE MADE IT KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANON'S BEST INTERESTS CLEARLY LAY WITH THE MODERATES. (NOTE: THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES PLAY OF THE POLITICIZING EFFORTS MOVED RAPIDLY IN THE FINAL HOURS. KUWAITI PERM REP BISHARA'S DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS SET ASIDE TEMPORARILY FOR A STRONGER RESOLUTION DRAFTED BY THE NON-ALIGNED (CUBA AND THE PLO). WESTERN LOBBYING EFFORTS (US, FRENCH, NORWEGIAN AND OTHERS) MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE NON-ALIGNED DRAFT, AS WELL AS THE BISHARA DRAFT, WOULD NOT GARNER THE SAME NUMBER OF POSITIVE VOTES AS THE TECHNICAL FINANCIAL (NORWEGIAN RESOLUTION; AND FURTHER, THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF EITHER POLITICAL RESOLUTION WOULD BE SEEN BY THE WEST AS BAD FAITH IN LIGHT OF THE WEST'S ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE NORWEGIAN RESOLUTION. THE BISHARA AND NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTIONS WERE THUS DROPPED, A DEFEAT FOR THE TRADITIONAL TROUBLEMAKERS.)

3. THE ISRAELIS, WITH WHOM WE ALSO KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH,

HAVE CONVEYED THEIR SATISFACTION TO US AS WELL. AMB.
HERZOG COMMENTED POSITIVELY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MAYNES (USUN 1588, NOTAL) AND DEPUTY PERM REP ELIAV
TOLD SEVERAL OF US THAT ISRAEL WAS APPRECIATIVE OF OUR
HARD WORK TO KILL THE POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS. ELIAV
SHRUGGED OFF THE SOVIET BLOC ANTI-ISRAELI STATEMENTS AS
TEDIOUS PARROTING AND SAID ISRAEL'S STATEMENT, WITH DUE
FORETHOUGHT, WAS KEPT LOW-KEY. HE NOTED WITH
DETACHMENT THAT ISRAEL'S ABSTENTION (AS HERZOG
EXPLAINED IN HIS GA STATEMENT) WAS OCCASIONED ONLY BY
THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH IN THE RESOLUTION SINGLING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01638

OUT ISRAEL. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT NOT TO LET THEIR
GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THIS GA'S RESULTS LEAD TO
ANY FEELING THAT PRESSURE AT THE UN FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL
HAS RELAXED.
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4. LOOKING OVER THE SCORECARD OF VOTING RESULTS, THE
"YES" VOTE OF ROMANIA AND THE "NO" VOTE OF SYRIA
STAND OUT. ROMANIA HAS MAINTAINED AN INTEREST IN
PEACEKEEPING (IT PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING) AND STATED ITS INTENTION
TO SUPPORT UNIFIL IN PLENARY ON APRIL 21. SYRIA'S
COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL IS OF COURSE VITAL AND IS BEING
DEMONSTRATED NOT THE LEAST THROUGH THE USE OF DAMASCUS
AIRPORT FOR THE SENEGALESE CONTINGENT AIRLIFT. WE ARE
TOLD THAT THE INSTRUCTION TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION
PROMPTED QUESTIONING BY LEBANON AND OTHERS,
WHICH LED THE SYRIAN MISSION TO REQUEST
RECONSIDERATION OF ITS INSTRUCTION, APPARENTLY TO NO
AVAIL.

5. SOVIET BLOC AND CHINESE OPPOSITION, WHICH WILL
CONTINUE TO CAUSE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FOR THE UNIFIL
OPERATION, WAS WELL CONTAINED ON THE
PROPAGANDA BATTLEFIELD. SOVIET BLOC EFFORTS (THROUGH
CUBA WHO WORKED WITH THE PLO) TO INTERJECT POLITICAL
ELEMENTS FAILED. ONE OF THE LESS INGENIOUS SOVIET
PLOYS WAS THEIR TELLING TUENI THAT GA PRESIDENT
MOJSOV, IN OPENING THE PLENARY DEBATE TO SPEECHES
ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF UNIFIL, PAVED THE WAY FOR A
POLITICAL RESOLUTION. TUENI, REPORTEDLY, MADE CLEAR TO
THE SOVIETS THAT HE DISAGREED WITH THIS LINE OF REASONING.

6. IN SUM, THE EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION CLEARED THE
ESSENTIAL POLITICAL AND PROCEDURAL HURDLES WITH
RELATIVE SMOOTHNESS. THE MAIN PROTAGONISTS CAME
AWAY SATISFIED, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. MEANWHILE,
THE QUESTION OF UNIFIL'S ENLARGEMENT REMAINS, AND
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TO ACHIEVE THAT WE MAY VERY SOON FACE ANOTHER RUN OVER
MUCH THE SAME ROCKY COURSE IN BOTH THE SC AND GA. OUR
SUCCESS WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON EVENTS IN LEBANON IN THE
COMING DAYS AND WEEKS, MOST IMPORTANTLY, OF COURSE,

THOSE RELATED TO WITHDRAWAL. YOUNG

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